

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 MCT-01 SY-05 /063 W  
-----087526 160001Z /45

O 152305Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4994  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTO DOMINGO 3295

PANAMA FOR PASTOR; DEPT PASS TO AIR FORCE ONE IF MESSAGE RE-  
CEIVED AFTER TAKE-OFF.

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PINS, DR  
SUBJECT: CONTINUED ELECTORAL UNCERTAINTY

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 2337

1. THE ELECTORAL SITUATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HAS  
DETERIOATED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER LAST TWO DAYS AS RESULT  
OF CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY OVER ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF ELECTO-  
RAL PROCESS. RECENT EVENTS WITHIN THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL  
BOARD (JCE) INCLUDING REMOVAL OF KEY JCE PERSONNEL, THE  
FAMOUS CASE OF THE "GAZETAZO," AND REFORMISTA ELECTORAL  
CHALLENGES, AND DELAY IN A FINAL OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF A PRD  
VICTORY HAVE SPAWNED A WIDESPREAD CASE OF THE JITTERS RE-  
FLECTED IN EMBASSY CONVERSATIONS WITH CONTACTS, PUBLIC  
STATEMENTS OF PRD AND CIVIC LEADERS, AND THE PRESS AND  
OTHER MEDIA COMMENTARY.

2. BEHIND ALL THIS IS A WIDESPREAD SUSPICION, FED BY A  
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HIGHLY CHARGED EMOTIONAL ATMOSPHERE, THAT SOMEHOW  
EVENTS ARE MOVING TOWARDS "A DISAVOWAL OF THE POPULAR  
WILL." THE LOCAL RUMOR MILL IS WORKING OVERTIME WITH  
STORIES ALLEGING SCHEMES INVOLVING THE CONNIVANCE OF THE  
ELECTORAL BOARD TO OVERTURN ELECTORAL RESULTS, ASSASSINATION  
PLOTS AGAINST LEADERS NOT ONLY OF THE PRD BUT ALSO OF THE GOVERN-  
MENT AND THE

EXTREME RIGHT, COUP PLOTTING BY ELEMENTS OF THE MILITARY, POSSIBILITY THAT BALAGUER WILL TRAVEL TO SPAIN THIS MONTH FOR EYE OPERATION, ETC. SOME OF THESE RUMORS DISSIPATE ALMOST AS QUICKLY AS THEY EMERGE, BUT THEY REFLECT THE GENERAL UNCERTAINTY AND CONTRIBUTE TO AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH IS CHARGED EVEN BEYOND THE POINT WARRANTED BY THE KNOWN FACTS.

3. MUCH OF THIS APPEARS TO BE DUE TO GENERAL INEPTNESS OF JCE TO GET ITS ACT TOGETHER. WHILE MOST HERE CONCEDE THAT THE BOARD IS OBLIGED BY LAW TO GO THROUGH THE REQUIRED STEPS, INCLUDING THE HEARING OF ANY CHALLENGES AND APPEALS TO ELECTION RESULTS, BEFORE GIVING A FINAL VERDICT, JCE HAS ENTERED INTO ALMOST COMICAL BLUNDERS, WHICH NONETHELESS INCITE FURTHER SUSPICIONS. TUESDAY AFTERNOON, WHEN DISCONTENT WITH BOARD'S ACTIONS(REFTEL) WAS ALREADY WIDESPREAD, INTERIM JCE CHAIRMAN HUGO VARGAS SUBERVI ANNOUNCED THAT BOARD WAS LOOKING FOR AND ASKING FOR CURRICULA VITAE ON "FOREIGN COMPUTER EXPERTS" TO HELP IT IN ITS INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN CONFECTION OF LISTS OF REGISTERED VOTERS. SINCE COUNTRY WAS ANXIOUSLY AWAITING FINAL ELECTION RESULTS ON FRIDAY, JUNE 16, THIS ACTION CAUSED A FLURRY OF TONGUE-IN-CHEEK EDITORIALIZING OVER HOW MANY MONTHS IT WOULD TAKE FOR THE JCE TO CONTRACT OUT SUCH EXPERTS AND ASKING WHY LOCAL EXPERTS COULD NOT BE USED. BOARD FINALLY ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON THAT IT WOULD HEAR ON FRIDAY THE FIRST CONFIDENTIAL

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APPEALS ON REFORMISTA CHALLENGES WHICH WERE REJECTED BY LOCAL BOARDS. JCE SAYS IT HAS MATERIALS ON TEN SUCH APPEALS.

4. PRD REACTION TO ALL THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF GROWING CONCERN BUT CONTINUED FIRM DETERMINATION THAT COME WHAT MAY PARTY WILL ASSUME POWER AUGUST 16. VICE-PRESIDENT-ELECT JACOBO MAJLUTA MADE CALL ON JCE YESTERDAY TO INDICATE PRD CONCERN OVER SLOW PACE OF JCE LABORS. JCE CHAIRMAN VARGAS SUBERVI REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED TO MAJLUTA THAT DELAYS WERE DUE TO ABNORMAL INCIDENTS DURING THE PROCESS OF THE VOTE COUNT, PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO THE MAY 17 MILITARY INTERVENTION.

5. ALSO TODAY PRESIDENT-ELECT ANTONIO GUZMAN CALLED ON SANTO DOMINGO ARCHBISHOP OCTAVIO ANTONIO BERAS. GUZMAN SAID AFTER INTERVIEW THAT ARCHBISHOP HAD WISHED HIM WELL AND ASSURED HIM OF CHURCH'S SUPPORT FOR "THE POPULAR WILL." THE PRESIDENT-ELECT SPOKE ASSUREDLY THAT COUNTRY WOULD SOON FIND SOLUTION TO CURRENT SITUATION. HE SAID HE IS SEEKING TODAY YET A THIRD INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER. GUZMAN WAS MORE CONCERNED IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF AND SAID HE WAS SEEKING MEETING WITH BALAGUER TO DISCUSS CURRENT ELECTORAL DIFFICULTIES. GUZMAN ALSO SAID IN CONFIDENTIAL TONE THAT POLICE CHIEF MAJ. GEN. NEIT

NIVAR WAS BEHIND CURRENT PROBLEMS.

6. PRD WHICH CALLED URGENT MEETING OF ITS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LAST NIGHT ISSUED RESOLUTION EARLY THIS MORNING CALLING FOR A "NATIONAL CIVIC DAY" IN WHICH CITIZENRY WOULD BE ASKED TO STAY IN THEIR HOMES IN THE EVENT THAT THE "POPULAR WILL" IS IGNORED BY ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES. NO DATE WAS SET FOR THIS ACTION WHICH WAS CHARACTERIZED AS AN ACT OF PEACEFUL RESISTANCE.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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ICAE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 MCT-01 SY-05 /063 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4995

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SANTO DOMINGO 3295

7. EMBASSY HAS MAINTAINED INTENSE CONTACTS WITH MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION AND OPINION LEADERS THROUGHOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. AMBASSADOR, IN HIS COURTESY CALLS ON SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, HAS EMPHASIZED U.S. POLICY ON ELECTIONS. HE MADE STRONG STATEMENT OF U.S. CONCERN TO FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ TODAY (SANTO DOMINGO 392). EMBOFFS HAVE ALSO HAD CONTACTS WITH IMPORTANT REFORMISTAS SOME OF WHOM SUPPORT PARTY'S LEGAL CHALLENGES TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER CURRENT SITUATION. WE HAVE ALSO HAD SOME DISCRETE CONTACT WITH JCE MEMBERS WHO KNOW WE ARE WATCHING BOARD'S ACTIONS WITH GREAT INTEREST. MISSION MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE ALSO MADE SIMILAR APPROACHES TO SENIOR DOMINICAN MILITARY. INDICATIONS ARE THAT SENIOR MILITARY, WITH EXCEPTION OF NIVAR AND A FEW ALLIES, ARE GENERALLY IN FAVOR OF AN END TO CURRENT UNCERTAINTY AND A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE PRD.

8. FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF CURRENT SITUATION NOW RESTS WITH

JCE BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER HIMSELF  
WHO HAS MAINTAINED A STONEY SILENCE SINCE HIS MAY 18  
SPEECH. THERE IS A GENERAL CLAMOR FOR BALAGUER TO SAY  
OR DO SOMETHING TO RESOLVE CURRENT SITUATION. AND NO  
ONE REALLY KNOWS WHAT BALAGUER'S APPRECIATION OF SITUATION  
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IS OR WHAT HE IS PREPARED TO DO ABOUT IT. AMBASSADOR  
HAS UURGENTLY REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH BALAGUER WHICH  
WE ARE TOLD MAY TAKE PLACE TONIGHT. HE EXPECTS TO INFORM  
HIM OF POINTS MADE TO PICHARDO (STATE 140319) AS WELL AS  
TO MAKE THOSE INCLUDED IN STATE 152080. WE ARE TOLD THAT  
UB MEANTIME JIMENEZ HAS BRIEFED BALAGUER ON SUBSTANCE OF  
CALL THAT AMBASSADOR MADE ON JIMENEZ THIS MORNING (SANTO  
DOMINGO 3292).  
YOST

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PEPR, PINS, DR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
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